

Message Text

SECRET

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17

ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 L-03 OMB-01 EB-07 DODE-00

ERDA-05 ACDA-05 /073 W

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R 030630Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2955

CINCPAC

INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

S E C R E T SINGAPORE 2862

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: MARR, MPOL, SN, NZ

SUBJ: SINGAPORE NAVAL FACILITIES

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

REF: A. WELLINGTON 1809; B. SINGAPORE 2405

1. ARRANGEMENTS OUTLINED BY GENERAL WEBB APPEAR TO US TO FALL FAR SHORT OF WHAT WOULD BE REQUIRED TO ENSURE MINIMAL OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS OF U.S. SEVENTH FLEET. AS DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL, PRINCIPAL REASON WHY U.S. URGED GNZ TO MANAGE THESE FACILITIES WAS TO INSULATE GOS FROM POLITICAL PRESSURES SO THAT THESE REQUIREMENTS COULD BE MET. THEREFORE, KEY ISSUE IS WHO WILL MANAGE THESE FACILITIES. ARRANGEMENTS CITED BY WEBB WOULD LEAVE MANAGEMENT OF FUEL DEPOT (INCLUDING THE PUMPING FACILITIES) AND THE CONTROL OF BERTHS SIX AND SEVEN OF THE NAVAL BASIN IN GOS HANDS. GOS WOULD TURN THEM OVER TO PORT OF SINGAPORE AUTHORITY (PSA) WHICH WOULD BE EXPECTED TO OPERATE THEM ON A COMMERCIALY PROFITABLE BASIS. NEW ZEALAND IS OUR ALLY, AND IF GNZ MANAGED THESE FACILITIES IT PRESUMABLY COULD BE COUNTED ON TO MEET OUR OPERATIONAL NEEDS AT ALL TIMES INCLUDING EMERGENCIES.

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ALTHOUGH GOS IS CURRENTLY WELL DISPOSED TOWARD U.S., SINGAPORE

IS NOT OUR ALLY AND PSA IS A GOVERNMENT CORPORATION MORE INTERESTED IN MAKING A PROFIT THAN IN ACCOMMODATING USN REQUIREMENTS.

2. UNDER NORMAL CONDITIONS, PSA MIGHT BE WILLING TO ALLOW U.S. WARSHIPS TO BERTH AT THE NAVAL BASIN ON 24 HOURS NOTICE, AND WOULD PROBABLY AGREE TO PUMPING OIL INTO THEM FROM UK/GNZ LEASED OIL TANKS. HOWEVER, IF USN EMERGENCY REQUESTS CAUSED GOS TO INCONVENIENCE REGULAR COMMERCIAL CUSTOMERS, PSA WOULD PROBABLY BEGIN TO CHAFE UNDER THIS REQUIREMENT AND WOULD EVENTUALLY SEEK GREATER FLEXIBILITY TO MEET THE NEEDS OF ALL ITS CUSTOMERS (DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT IT WAS PROFIT MOTIVE THAT CAUSED PSA TO ACCEPT SOVIET MERCHANTMEN AT PSA BERTHS IN NAVAL BASIN LAST YEAR DESPITE PREVIOUS GOS UNDERTAKINGS THAT SOVIET MERCHANT SHIPS WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED IN THE BASIN). FURTHERMORE, IN EVENT OF MAJOR INTERNATIONAL CRISIS IN WHICH GOS MIGHT FEEL IT SHOULD ADOPT NON-ALIGNED POSITION, GOS WOULD PROBABLY MUCH PREFER TO HAVE GNZ TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR BERTHING AND FUELING U.S. WARSHIPS, AND CONCEIVABLY MIGHT RENEGE ON UNDERTAKINGS, MADE WHEN INTERNATIONAL SITUATION WAS NORMAL.

3. REQUEST CINCPAC COMMENT ON ARRANGEMENTS IT CONSIDERS ESSENTIAL TO MEET MINIMAL OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS OF SEVENTH FLEET. GRANT

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUELING, ORGANIZATION & MANAGEMENT, PORT FACILITIES, LONG TERM LEASES, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SINGAP02862
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750230-0622
From: SINGAPORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750787/aaaaczwb.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 WELLINGTON 1809, 75 SINGAPORE 2405
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <05 NOV 2003 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SINGAPORE NAVAL FACILITIES CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD
TAGS: MARR, MPOL, SN, NZ, US, UK
To: STATE CINCPAC
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006